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21 September 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

*South Vietnam: (Outward signs of the South Vietnamese crisis have all but disappeared from Saigon.)

(Troop cordons formerly in place around schools and the public market have been replaced by small guard detachments. The ranking Buddhist monk, octogenarian Thich Thinh Khiет, has been released after 29 days of detention in a military hospital and escorted to a lesser pagoda in Saigon which now serves as headquarters for the government-sponsored "Intersect Committee for the Defense of Pure Buddhism.")

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(On the military side, Viet Cong attacks last week reached the highest number for any week this year, totaling 137 as compared to the previous week's figure of 95. This may indicate a deliberate attempt by the Viet Cong to exploit unsettled political conditions, but may also reflect the usual upward fluctuation of Viet Cong activity in the fall.)

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Communist China: (The Sino-Soviet rift and domestic economic difficulties are reported to have created morale problems in Communist China.)

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[redacted] many people are alarmed by the loss of Soviet support for industrialization and are pessimistic about the future. The US consul general in Hong Kong comments that this and another recent report show that Peiping's challenge to Moscow--while appealing to Chinese xenophobia--has also generated apprehension over the regime's motives and possibly deepened doubts about the regime's present course.)

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(Although food supplies have improved somewhat in 1963, [redacted] "some people" are still concerned over the food situation, believing that current grain rations cannot be guaranteed. This apparently widespread apprehension probably will not be relieved soon. Present signs are that the 1963 grain harvest will be little if any better than last year's mediocre harvest.)

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Pakistan - Communist China: (Pakistan reportedly will invite Chinese Communist Foreign Minister Chen Yi for a visit later this fall, after Foreign Minister Bhutto returns from the United States.)

(Bhutto had earlier told Ambassador McConaughy that an invitation to Chen Yi was "not in the mill now," although he might eventually be invited.)

(Like Pakistan's support of Communist China's proposal for a nuclear disarmament conference, an invitation to Chen Yi would be another of Rawalpindi's responses to what it regards as a growing Indian military threat and to closer military and political relations between the US and India. President Ayub apparently does not intend, however, to allow relations with Peiping to develop to the point where they could, in his opinion, seriously affect Pakistan's alliance with the United States.)

(The Chinese have been trying to draw Pakistan further from its Western commitments. Bhutto stated that Peiping originally was pressing to have Chou En-lai visit Rawalpindi and thus upgrade relations between the two governments.)

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Brazil: The discovery of a rightist anti-Goulart plot in Guanabara State has probably affected the military's effort to induce the government to crack down on left-wing extremists.

On 18 September, army units, cooperating with the local police, arrested several rightist followers of retired Admiral Sylvio Heck, a congenital plotter with little significant following in the military, for attempting to transport arms into Rio de Janeiro. The security forces have also uncovered a large arms cache belonging to rightist elements.

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These developments may have deflated the case the military is trying to make with Goulart that the leftists are mainly responsible for the political instability in Brazil recently demonstrated by the sergeants' uprising in Brasilia and continuing labor unrest. In any event, they will be exploited by the left as ammunition for its bitter campaign against Lacerda and other conservative leaders.

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*Norway: The resignation yesterday of Conservative Prime Minister Lyng's three-week-old minority coalition will bring on a period of heightened political maneuvering in Norway.

Lyng's withdrawal prepares the way for the reconstitution of a minority Labor government, which is again expected to be headed by party chairman Einar Gerhardsen.

Labor chose not to bring down the government on a no-confidence motion but instead adopted the strategy of proposing that Lyng accept as the basis for his government's program the Labor policy statement put forward during the debate by Gerhardsen. In the vote on this proposal, the 74 Labor deputies were supported by the two deputies of the extreme leftist Socialist People's Party (SPP) who provided the necessary majority to defeat the government.

The ensuing period will be a difficult one for Gerhardsen and the Labor Party. In the first place, he has deeply antagonized the other democratic parties by arbitrarily choosing to topple Norway's first non-Socialist government in 28 years without giving it a reasonable period in which to demonstrate its ability to govern. Furthermore, the Labor leadership's seeming flirtation with the SPP and its efforts to rally the party by announcing a more aggressively Socialist economic program will sharpen tensions between the party's left and right wings.

As one of its first items of business the Labor government is expected to seek action on a proposed amendment to the constitution that would allow parliament to be dissolved and new elections to be called before the regularly scheduled date two years hence. Both Labor and the four non-Socialist parties are dissatisfied with the situation in the present parliament where the two blocs each control 74 seats and the two SPP deputies hold the balance of power.

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Libya: The US ambassador believes that Libya may have reached or be about to reach an agreement with the Soviet Union for overflight and landing rights. While there is no hard evidence as yet available that such an agreement has been concluded, Libyan officials are reluctant to discuss the issue, and Prime Minister Fikini's behavior suggests that he is contemplating some gesture to show that Libya is independent of the West. Aeroflot officials may have been among the members of a Soviet trade delegation which visited Libya last spring.

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*USSR: The USSR has sold over \$100 million in gold in Western Europe in recent weeks, apparently to build up foreign exchange balances to defray initial expenses of the current wheat purchases. Additional sales are expected and this year the USSR probably will exceed its peak sale of \$310 million in 1961.

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